

My Choice Matters

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Supports Intensity Scale-Adult® (SIS-A®)



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE



What is the SIS-A?

The SIS-A is an assessment tool that measures the type and amount of support that a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities needs. Soon, any adult eligible for services through the Idaho Developmental Disabilities Program will get a SIS-A assessment every 3 years.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) wants to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live the lives they choose in their communities. As part of this ongoing effort, Medicaid is making some changes. Right now, Medicaid uses the Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (SIB-R) to learn about your needs and find out if you qualify for services. Medicaid is preparing to stop using the SIB-R and instead use a new tool, the SIS-A, to determine what supports you need. This change is part of the work Medicaid is doing in response to the K.W. Lawsuit. The SIS-A will be used to help determine the budget for your supports starting in the next 2 years.

People are already beginning to get the SIS-A to help prepare for this change. The SIS-A measures the supports you need in a variety of key areas: home, community, lifelong learning, employment, health and safety, social activities, protection and advocacy. Read on to find out more about the SIS-A and what it means for you.

Why the SIS-A?

DHW chose the SIS-A because it:

- ✓ Focuses on what supports you need to be successful in areas of daily life
- ✓ Involves you and others who know you well to get a full picture of your life
- ✓ Shows your strengths and support needs
- ✓ Was found by DHW staff and other advocates to be the most respectful tool to adults with disabilities



How can the SIS-A help with planning?

The SIS-A interview may help you:

- ✓ Discover things that are important “to” and “for” you
- ✓ Think about supports you may need to try new activities
- ✓ Talk about supports that would assist you to have a job, have relationships and friendships, or get out in the community

What are Supplemental Questions?

There are two questions asked at the end of the SIS-A interview. These questions help the assessor gather more information about how much support you need specifically for medical and behavioral needs. Based on the answers to these questions, DHW staff may collect and review additional records to get a better understanding of your specific support needs in those areas.

Who should attend the SIS-A assessment interview?

You and members of your circle of support are encouraged to attend the SIS-A interview. At least 2 people, who have known you for 3 months or more, must stay for the entire interview.

Attendees can include:

Person who receives support (You)

Parents or other family members

Direct support professionals

Friends, advocates, or other community members who know you well

When will I get a SIS-A assessment interview?

- Everyone who uses services will get a SIS-A assessment before the new Supports Budget Framework rolls out.
- Some adults in the program have been selected to get a SIS-A right now. These SIS-As will help to finalize the new Supports Budget Framework.
- When you will get the SIS-A assessment depends on your current schedule for receiving SIB-R assessments.
- After all adults in the program have received their first SIS-A assessment, a new schedule for receiving a SIS-A every three years will be established.
- When it's time for your SIS assessment interview, a Scheduler will contact you by phone

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Call **DHW** if you have general questions about the SIS-A or want to request a copy of your most recent SIB-R 1 (844) 793-1286

Call your **Support Broker or Targeted Service Coordinator** if you have questions about your services or want to make changes to your supports in the community.

When it is time, **an assessor** will contact you about scheduling your SIS-A assessment.

